

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered at least because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 19-38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to correct a clerical error in punctuation without narrowing their scope.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-8 and 10-18 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-18 are allowed. Applicant notes that claim 9 was canceled in the amendment filed April 8, 2005. Thus, claims 1-8 and 10-18 are now allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103

Claims 19-22, 30, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakagami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,798) (“Nakagami”). Claims 23, 28 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Nakaoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,788,573) (“Nakaoka”). Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,529) (“Sato”). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Hensel (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,656) (“Hensel”). Claims 31, 36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Tashiro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,120) (“Tashiro”). Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Kawamura (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0194249) (“Kawamura”). Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagami in view of Tashiro as applied to claim 12 above,

and further in view of Hensel. These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 19-38.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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